October 7, 2014

Lt. Governor

Director

Date Complaint Received: 8/30/14

Complaint Received By: Chad Reckling, SW II

Governor

Provider Name and Location: Felicia Pack 923 Morgan St Keokuk IA 52632

Complaint: 1. It is reported that Felicia had been drinking alcohol while caring for daycare children.

- 2. It is reported that marijuana was observed along with "roaches" from a party that Felicia had that were accessible to daycare children.
- 3. It was reported that Felicia has been smoking marijuana while caring for daycare children.
- 4. Two daycare children were observed to be naked and touching each other during the time the children were being cared for by Felicia.
- 5. It is reported that Felicia and her husband were engaged in sexual intercourse during the time that Felicia was supposed to be watching daycare children.

Rule Basis:

110.5(1) Conditions in the home are safe, sanitary, and free of hazards.

110.5(1)o Smoking and the use of tobacco products is prohibited at all times in the home and vehicles used to transport children. Smoking and use of tobacco products prohibited in outdoor play area during hours of operation.

110.5(9) The provider meets the following requirements:

A. Gives careful supervision at all times.

Findings:

9/2/14 Social worker Jennifer Richardson and this worker met with Felicia at her daycare home today to confront her on the allegations before the department. There were two daycare children present during the visit.

Felicia reported on 8/29/14 after her last two daycare children left her house she was planning on having a "girls night out". She indicated she had some alcohol out, but the container was not "cracked." Felicia reported she started drinking while her friend took her child to someone and came back to the home. Felicia indicated she had daycare children at her house until 6:30-7:00 pm. Felicia reported her and other friends went out drinking that night and came back to her house to resume drinking at a late hour. This is when Felicia reported when they had been at her house for a while one of her friends starting "flipping out and going bi-polar" on her about what happened earlier in the day with two daycare children. Felicia reported she had gone to the bathroom in the morning of 8/29/14 and when she came out she discovered two daycare children who had their pants off and were touching each other. She immediately placed the children in a time out and contacted both daycare parents about what had happened. Felicia denied ever drinking alcohol while caring for daycare children, but did admit her drinking has picked up since her recent separation from her husband 10 days ago. Felicia denied any daycare children were at her house when she started to drink the evening of 8/29/14. Felicia stated "why would I do that...I don't do this anymore" when confronted about smoking

marijuana in front of the daycare children. Felicia did admit later on in the conversation she did smoke some at a bar she was at a couple of weeks ago. Felicia denied having any marijuana or drug paraphernalia in the home and welcomed this worker and social worker Richardson to search. Felicia stated she would be willing to cooperate with urinalysis testing. Felicia denied having sexual intercourse with her husband Michael while daycare children were present indicating "no…why would I do this with daycare kids here and why would I tell her if it was her daycare children that were present." Felicia denied being hung-over when morning daycare children come to her and denies having daycare children get into bed with her to sleep. Felicia admits being sad and depressed and she does not have any formal support system besides her mother to talk with. She stated she would like to take a break to deal with her personal issues, but she does not know how she will pay the bills. Felicia stated "I am not worried about you coming because I have not done anything wrong and am not hiding anything." Felicia denied ever smoking in her house, but did state she will smoke regular cigarettes on her back porch when the daycare children are sleeping.

This worker completed a full compliance visit of the home today. Non-compliance items were present. Please refer to letter dated 9/3/14 for further information.

8/30/14 The department interviewed two children; ages seven and eight years old. These two children indicated that "...sometimes Felicia drinks alcohol".

9/15/14 Felicia had contacted the department to state when she drank alcohol on 8/29/14, there were daycare children at the house; however she was "Off the Clock" and was watching these daycare children without pay.

9/16/14 Social worker Richardson and this worker met with Felicia and Matt in her daycare home. No daycare children were present. Social worker Richardson discussed concerns of Felicia drinking when daycare children were present and Felicia stated she was off the clock when this was occurring. Social worker Richardson also brought up the concern of high levels of THC present during drug testing of Felicia. Social worker Richardson and this worker discussed with Felicia about still needing to take time for herself to deal with personal issues prior to getting back involved with her daycare business and to take the time to establish a better support system for herself in the future. Felicia's husband Michael was interviewed regarding the allegations in front of the department and he denied that any of them were true.

10/1/14 This worker checked the Kindertrack System and noted Felicia had billed for the seven and eight year old child for whom she was referring was at her house when she was drinking on 8/29/14 from 3:00 - 7:00 pm and had been paid for this time already.

Complaint #1:

There is a preponderance of evidence to validate this complaint. Two daycare children that are old enough to tell what alcoholic drinks are stated they have seen Felicia drink before. Felicia admitted drinking on 8/29/14 with two daycare children being present. Despite Felicia indicating she was "off the clock" during the time these children were present she still billed for this time and wad paid for watching these daycare children.

Complaint #2:

Despite several interviews by the department, there **is not** a preponderance of evidence to support these

allegations.

Complaint #3:

Despite daycare children stating they have observed Felicia to go outside and smoke cigarettes or cigars, there **is not** a preponderance of evidence to suggest these cigarettes were marijuana or a controlled substance.

Complaint #4:

Felicia did admit an incident occurred between two daycare children while she was preparing food and going to the bathroom. Felicia responded appropriately to this incident by separating the children, putting them in timeout; explaining why their behavior was wrong and immediately contacted the parents about it. There **is not** a preponderance of evidence to suggest she was providing inappropriate supervision at the time to allow this to happen.

Complaint #5:

Despite several interviews conducted by the department, there **is not** a preponderance of evidence to support these allegations in front of the department.

Resolution: Felicia signed a safety plan with the department on 9/2/14 indicating:

- Felicia agrees to not provide daycare during the course of this assessment.
- Felicia agrees to drug test arranged by DHS.
- Felicia is going through a difficult time in her life and needs to address some personal issues through counseling/church/etc.
- Felicia will not drink alcohol or use any substances while providing care to children.
- Felicia will be awake during times she is providing supervision to children.

This worker had Felicia sign a voluntary relinquishment of her registration certificate on 9/16/14. Felicia agreed she was feeling overwhelmed with working the long hours with no breaks and needed to do the following: increase her positive support system within the community; complete her work towards her GED and address her personal family issues she is experiencing right now.

If you have any questions regarding this matter feel free to contact me at 1-888-381-6831 or creckli@dhs.state.ia.us.

Sincerely,

Chad Reckling, Social Worker II 560 Division St, Ste 200 Burlington IA 52601 MACHELLE PEZLEY

Machelle Pezley, Social Work Supervisor 307 Bank St Keokuk IA 52632